programme schedule of Doordarshan Kendras at Guwahati, Jammu, Patna and Kolkata respectively.

Postponement of discussion for "Charcha Main"

1514. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had forced to postpone an hour long discussion for "Charcha Main" which was to be telecast as per the schedule;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the seven panelists were informed about the postponement of the pre-scheme at the last moment; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati, an autonomous organization has informed that the non-telecast was a result of an editorial decision taken by them.

Pending cases in Delhi High Court

†1515. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criminal and civil cases registered in Delhi High Court during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989, year-wise;

(b) the list of pending cases as on date, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the pendency of the cases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to dispose of the above pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per the information furnished by High Court of Delhi, 3031 criminal, 8415 civil cases in 1987, 3315

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

criminal, 16850 civil cases in 1988 and 3599 criminal and 29884 civil cases in 1989 were registered in Delhi High Court.

(b) A Statement is enclosed (*see* below).

(c) All the pending matters are on respective benches for hearing. The reasons for pendency besides others are non-availability of the counsel representing the parties before Court, delay on the part of litigants or their counsel in completing their pleadings, bringing in legal representatives of deceased parties, etc.

(d) Hon'ble the Chief Justice, Delhi High Court has created a special cell called 'Judicial Management and Legal Research Cell'. The Cell is manned by one Joint Registrar and two Deputy Registrars who check all these old matters pertaining to the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 and who, thereafter, group such cases that stand covered by any earlier judicial pronouncements of this court or by decisions of the Supreme Court. This procedure has helped in reducing the pendency of a lot of oldest cases and the procedure is still continuing. Further, to expedite the disposal of old cases Hon'ble the Chief Justice has fixed every 'Thursday' as an 'OLD MATTERS DAY'. On this day, all benches are exclusively hearing old matters. Criminal matters including short sentences and other similar matters which demand immediate hearing are disposed of with all promptness. Criminal matters in which accused/appellant are in jail are being listed at the top of the list for speedy disposal. Criminal matters involving petty offences are disposed of expeditiously by organizing Lok Adalats.

Statement

In Delhi High Court the details of criminal and civil cases pending at the end of March, 2005

Main Cases

Years	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	2	3	4
1966	1		1
1967	2		2
1968	3		3

1	2	3	4
1969	3		3
1970	11		11
1971	7		7
1972	9		9
1973	15		15
1974	25		25
1975	13		13
1976	41		41
1977	41	44	85
1978	43	22	65
1979	68	50	118
1980	71	63	134
1981	85	51	136
1982	78	46	124
1983	114	56	170
1984	290	81	371
1985	324	46	370
1986	473	52	525
1987	700	67	767
1988	1130	76	1206
1989	610	82	692
1990	1162	96	1258
1991	1237	90	1327
1992	1333	62	1395

1	2	3	4
1993	1334	36	1370
1994	1520	47	1567
1995	1603	76	1679
1996	1599	99	1698
1997	1716	238	1954
1998	2052	221	2273
1999	1662	418	2080
2000	2857	521	3378
2001	2723	519	3242
2002	5047	1045	6092
2003	7464	3484	10948
2004	16332	2195	18527
2005	7160	1440	8600
TOTAL :	60958	11323	72281

Shortage of judges

†1516. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing numbers of judges working in Supreme Court and High Courts of the country are less than their sanctioned strength;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed its adverse impact on functioning of the courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated number of cases per annum which remained unsettled as a result thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.